



# State of Utah


DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor  
Kathleen Clarke  
Executive Director  
Lowell P. Braxton  
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
PO Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801  
801-538-5340  
801-359-3940 (Fax)  
801-538-7223 (TDD)

May 1, 2002

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist 

RE: Site Inspection, Graymont Western US, Inc., Cricket Mountain Mine, M/027/006, Millard County, Utah

Date of Inspection: March 1, 2002  
Time of Inspection: 9:30 to 11:30 AM  
Conditions: Mostly clear, windy, very cold  
Participants: Terry McIntyre, Graymont; Paul Baker, DOGM

## **Purpose of Inspection:**

The primary purpose for the inspection was to look at revegetation, but Mr. McIntyre showed me much of the mine and had questions about regrading some of the waste dumps.

## **Getting to the site:**

The mine is about 40 miles north of Milford and about 38 miles south of Delta on the west side of S.R. 257.

## **Observations:**

### ***Topsoil***

I did not look at the topsoil stockpiles, but topsoil was being scraped away from an area at the Flat Iron Mine while we were there (Photo 1).

### ***Revegetation***

We looked at reclamation on some of the benches at the Poison Mountain Mine. Vegetation in the areas that received topsoil (Photos 2 and 3) is doing much better than areas that were reclaimed only with fines (Photo 4). Dominant species in the reclaimed areas were crested wheatgrass, Russian wild rye, forage kochia, and fourwing saltbush. Other species include Palmer penstemon, bottlebrush squirreltail, and bluebunch wheatgrass. In general, vegetation in the topsoiled areas looks very good.

There are quite a few rocks in the soil matrix in the topsoiled areas, and, in addition, the operator has intentionally placed rocks on the surface of some of the areas (Photos 2 and 3). This increases water infiltration and vegetation growth while enhancing the value of the area for wildlife habitat.

### ***Backfilling and Grading***

From the Flat Iron Mine, Mr. McIntyre showed me a dump on the west side of the Poison Mountain Mine and asked about whether the dumps need to be regraded (Photos 6 and 7). There are actually two groups of dumps in this area, one on the north which has been mostly regraded, and one on the south which has not. From a distance, it did not appear topsoil had been salvaged in the area of the south dumps. We did not look closely at these dumps, so I do not know whether there are any stability or other reclamation problems with them.

The conclusions and recommendations section of this report contains a discussion about the south dumps.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

The plan contains a map showing the south dump area or at least a portion of it. The map, dated 1991, indicates this area is about five acres, but I suspect the actual disturbed area is more than this. The plan does not contain a reclamation treatments map for this area, so it is impossible to answer the question whether the south dump area needs to be graded. In addition, the legal description in the reclamation agreement does not include the south dump area, so this area may not have been included when last calculating the bond.

Before the Division can make a decision whether the south dump area needs to be regraded, the operator needs to submit a reclamation plan showing how they propose to reclaim this site. The Division could then review this plan and determine whether additional grading needs to be done.

The bond was due for its 5-year review on May 2, 2002, and the Division needs to examine these issues in more detail as part of the bond review.

There is not nearly as much vegetation cover in areas that were reclaimed with reject fines for the soil as there is in areas where soil or overburden were used. In the future, fines should not be used alone as a soil substitute.

Attachment: (Photographs)

cc: Mike Brown

John Blake, SITLA

Larry Garahana, BLM

P:\GROUPS\MINERALS\WP\M027-Millard\M0270006CricketMtn\Final\Ins030102.doc



**ATTACHMENT**

**Photographs  
S/027/006  
Cricket Mountain Mine**



Photo 1. Topsoil being salvaged at the Flat Iron Mine.



Photo 2. Revegetation on bench at Poison Mountain Mine.





Photo 3. Revegetation on bench at Poison Mountain Mine. Note the intentionally-placed rocks.



Photo 4. Revegetation with fines used for soil on a bench of the Poison Mountain Mine.





Photo 5. Waste dumps at the Poison Mountain Mine.



Photo 6. Waste dumps at the Poison Mountain Mine.